

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-37: (Canceled)

Claim 38: (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid probe of less than 10,000 contiguous nucleotides, wherein ~~said~~ the probe hybridizes with a second nucleic acid comprising at least 20 contiguous nucleotides of a sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- a. nucleotides 1-115 of SEQ ID NO:8; and
- b. nucleotides 428-1011 of SEQ ID NO:8;

and further wherein the hybridization conditions comprise:

- i. overnight incubation at 42°C of a nucleic acid blot with ~~said~~ the probe;
- ii. washing of ~~said~~ the blot at room temperature with 2x SSC and 1% Na₄P₂O₂;
- iii. washing of ~~said~~ the blot at 65°C with 0.2x SSC, 1% SDS, and 1% Na₄P₂O₂; and
- iv. washing of ~~said~~ the blot with 0.2x SSC at room temperature.

Claim 39: (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid probe of ~~claim 1~~ claim 38, wherein the probe hybridizes with a second nucleic acid comprising nucleotides 1-115 of SEQ ID NO:8.

Claim 40: (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid probe of ~~claim 1~~ claim 38, wherein the probe hybridizes with a second nucleic acid comprising nucleotides 428-1011 of SEQ ID NO:8.

Claim 41: (Currently amended) A complement of the isolated nucleic acid probe of ~~claim 1~~ claim 38.